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IN THE CLAIMS

(The previously presented claims were amended in a response, mailed April 01, 2003, to a non-final Office Action mailed January 16, 2003).

1. (Original) A method for managing adjunct access for a circuit in a network management system, the method comprising the step of:
providing a respective manageable link representing each non-managed portion of the circuit, responsive to a determination that a non-managed portion of the circuit exists.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each respective manageable link is coupled to at least one of a Digital Cross Connect (DCS), a Light wave Guided Cross Connects (LGX), and a Distribution Drop Point (DDP).
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein each respective manageable link comprises at least one of a fiber optic cable, a twisted copper pair, and a coaxial cable.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said links comprise at least one of a digital carrier and an optical carrier.
5. (Previously Presented) A method for designing a continuous circuit, comprising the steps of:
determining whether a non-managed portion of a circuit exists; and
providing a link between each non-managed portion of the circuit and proximate managed portions of the circuit, said link being characterized as a managed carrier link by a network management system.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said links are coupled to at least one of:

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a Digital Cross Connect (DCS), a Light wave Guided Cross Connects (LGX), and a Distribution Drop Point (DDP).

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said links comprise at least one of:

a fiber optic cable, a twisted copper pair, and a coaxial cable.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said links comprise at least one of:

a digital carrier and an optical carrier.

9. (Previously Presented) A method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to provision a circuit;

selecting a path for said circuit within a network comprising a plurality of network elements;

assigning links bridging non-managed portions of said circuit path; and

characterizing said assigned links as managed carrier links.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:

determining if cross-connect network elements exist for bridging non-managed portions of said circuit path to managed portions of said circuit path; and

assigning available cross-connect network elements to appropriate links bridging non-managed portions of said circuit.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said non-managed portions of said network comprise at least one of adjunct access facilities or leased facilities.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for designing a continuous circuit, comprising:

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a processor and an associated storage device including instructions for controlling said processor, said instructions, when executed, causing said processor to perform the steps of:

determining whether a non-managed portion of a circuit exists; and
providing a link between non-managed portions of the circuit and respective proximate managed portions of the circuit, said link being characterized as a managed carrier link by a network management system.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein links are coupled to at least one of:

a Digital Cross Connect (DCS), a Light wave Guided Cross Connects (LGX), and a Distribution Drop Point (DDP).

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said links comprise at least one of:

a fiber optic cable, a twisted copper pair, and a coaxial cable.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said links comprise at least one of:

a digital carrier, and an optical carrier.

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